



When and How Much to Water your Lawn?

1. How much should I water?

Contrary to common believe, your lawn doesn't need to be water every day!

Healthy, properly irrigated turf rarely needs more than 1 inch of water per week during the summer months. Except during an extended dry spell, watering during the winter is rarely needed.

2. When should I water?

A good indicator that your lawn needs water is when leaf blades begin to roll or **when footprints remain** for a period after you walked across your lawn.

3. During what time of the day should I water?

The best time to water all landscape plant material is **early morning or late evening** when winds are calmer and temperatures are lower, resulting in less water loss to evaporation. It's important to give leaf surfaces time to dry before nightfall to deter disease and decay.

4. How long should I water?

A good rule is to **wet the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches** to reach the root system of the plants. Use a soil probe or screwdriver to determine the depth the water actually reaches. Soil type, amount of rainfall, and season of the year all affect the amount of water you need to apply. **As a rule of thumb in Deer Park, TX, 1 inch of accumulated rain/water will wet the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.**

How long you need to set your sprinkler to water to a depth of 6 inches:

Set 5 open-top shallow cans (like those used for tuna or cat food) randomly spaced within the area covered by the sprinkler. Set the sprinkler for 30 minutes. Measure the depth of water in each can, and determine the average depth. Your answers will give you the amount of accumulated water in half an hour. If 30 minutes yields an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch accumulation of water in the cans, an hour will yield 1 inch accumulation and wet your soil to a depth of 6 inches. Adjust your watering time accordingly.

Source: [A Watering Guide for Texas Landscape](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/) TWDB <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/>

For more information on the Storm Water Management Program, to report dumping into storm drains, or to volunteer contact the City of Deer Park's Storm Water Division (281) 478-7244.